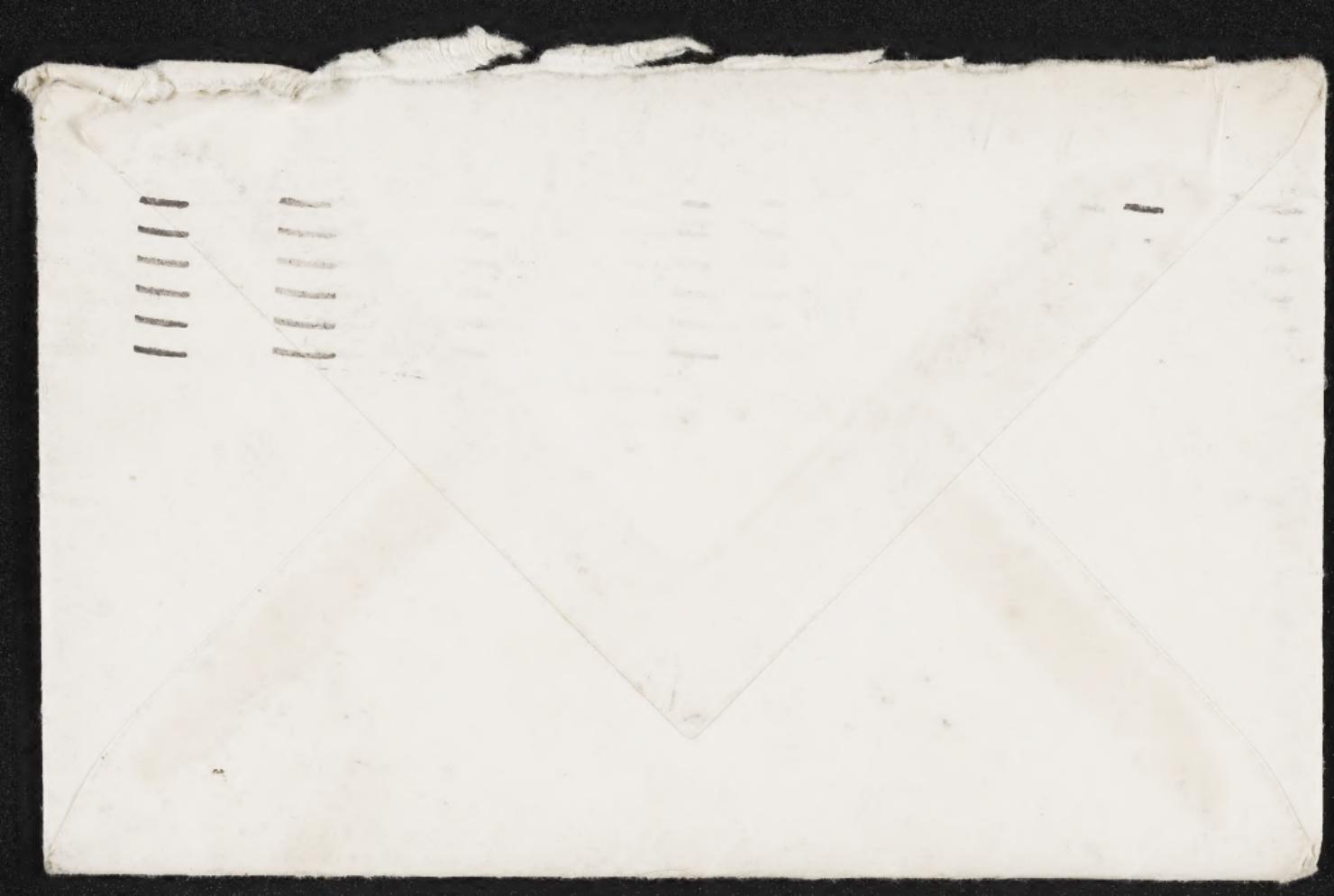


Mr. Ralph C. Bean  
48 Emerson Street  
Wakefield  
Massachusetts



Dear Mr. Bean — This mail

was stimulating this morning —  
your letter and a tube of a beautiful  
Kelly green tooth paste, and as  
kindling, a circular from Boys'  
Town! I was sitting in garbs,  
unshaven and apathetic, gazing  
out into the garden.

After filling my mouth with  
delicious mint-flavored green froth  
and reading your letter, I  
actually got up enough steam  
to be ready to receive you 11.30 A.M.

as to the glaucous under surface.  
It develops with maturity!

The two contrasting specimens  
brought from Vermont are now  
identical. Furthermore, the  
specimen that you examined  
here is now completely glaucous  
under leaf. Though there is  
undoubtedly a race of Jacks  
that has given rise to the  
concept of *A. stewardsonii*,  
whom I am really acquainted  
with it, I believe that  
it shall be dubious of its  
specific rank.

I didn't find my spree at all exhausting, but the subsequent days in which I was commanded to move my uncle's widow to her summer home at Cape Porpoise, and this interminable fussing and fuming which my aunt Caroline can work up over decorating gowns left me completely exhausted for days.

How can I be expected to hold up my end with learned professional "botanologists" (as the Boy Scout said) with all the treasures of Harvard at their disposition! One definite conclusion may be drawn

I am inclined to believe that,  
except for acknowledged calcophiles,  
that the physical characteristics  
of soil here in New England are  
more important than the soil  
reaction. In general, I assume  
that plants of European origin  
are more responsive to a sweet  
soil than are most Asiatics.

I lay most of my difficulties  
to too heavy and tenacious a  
soil with concomitant lack  
of drainage. When I have  
deliberately created a pocket  
of artificially prepared soil  
(with cinders, ash, sand, disintegrated  
granites, peat, leaf mold, etc.)  
so far I have never failed  
with a plant ordinarily unhappy

in my garden. The *Lamiums*  
are regularly eliminated, and  
being of little value, have  
never been passed with. *Ajuga*  
*generensis* is of similar habit  
and of similar reaction to my  
garden, as you know.

*Dicentra spectabilis* has  
done well in my garden  
in a pocket of lighter soil,  
well enriched and well watered.  
Otherwise this twisted fleshy  
root partially decays. One  
mystery in my garden still  
holds, for I have not conquered  
*Trollius*, than which nothing  
could be more weedy in appropriate  
swampy pastures in the Alps.

petals about a mass of golden stamens, held stiffly erect, dominate this garden for four days. Now there will be little of moment for a fortnight. Two officinalis hybrids - Chocolat Soldier and Rose Marie - will bloom before them but the plants show the effects of having been moved and their blooms will not be typical. Until you know some of these, you don't know the glory of peonies.

I am sorry that you did  
not "look in" on your journey  
home - whether I had been  
in or not. *Paeonia officinalis*  
in the single form with partially  
converted stamens ("anemonaeflora")  
was unusually brilliant,  
as was *P. officinalis rosea*  
*superba* pl. f. and *P. officinalis*  
*alba* pl. f.. But John

Harvard was superb —  
I went out every half hour  
during daylight for worship.  
A very large very dark cardinal  
red bloom of four rows of

I shall have to go to  
Boston next week probably  
Thursday and will telephone

Yours faithfully,

Charles Stockman

153 High Street  
Newburyport  
Massachusetts

June 7, 1952

P.S.

Does "Amy" smoke cigars?